of the 8 sick subsidiaries of NTC. BIFR has so far not decided on advancing the hearing.

(c) The Rehabilitation Scheme has to be approved by BIFR after ascertaining the views/concurrence of all concerned on the sacrifices/ concessoins proposed in the Draft Rehabilitation Schemes (DRSs) before taking final decision.

(d) Government of India have conveyed their consent to BIFR for the sacrifices proposed and have also requested for advancing the date of hearing for early finalisation of the package.

Meeting of Export promotion council to boosts exports

1185. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has convened a meeting in the third week of October, 2001 of export promotion councils in the textile sector to discuss measures to boost exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact of September 11, terrorists attacks in the US on the Indian textile exports; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to minimise the damage caused to our exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A meeting of the Chairpersons and Chief Executives of Textile Export Promotion Councils was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Textiles on 15th October, 2001 to discuss and review the export performance *vis-a-vis* targets during the current year and steps to be taken to boost exports.

(c) and (d) A declining trend has been noticed in the textile exports since the beginning of the year 2001, which is mainly due to the slow-down in the economies of some of the major importing

countries such as US. The declining trend has accentuated from the middle of the year.

In order to mitigate the adverse effects of the prevailing conditions, Government have taken a number of measures, which include:—

(1) Large additional quantities have been opened for most of the categories under the FCFS/RGE systems of the Quota Policies with a view to providing quotas to the garment and textile exporters on a continuous basis.

(2) In order to reduce transaction costs and time of the exporters, EMD/BG amounts have reduced for certain categories and the date for utilising quotas have been extended. Further, the L/C condition under the FCFS system has also been waived for all such categories which have quantities left over for the rest of the year.

(3) DEPB rates for certain textile products have been rationalised.

Besides, a "Textile Package" was announced in the Budget 2001-2002 to strengthen domestic textile industry for meeting the growing global competition. Some of the important provisions of the "Textile Package" are:—

(i) Excise duty structure on textile items has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition.

(ii) Custom duty has been reduced from 15% to 5% on 159 specified textiles and garment machineries. In addition, 12 important items of machineries including shuttleless looms have also been exempted from countervailing duty. A programme has been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.

(iii) Assistance under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) providing for a reimbursement of 5% out of interest is available to textile industry for modernisation and upgradation. In addition rate of depreciation allowance for machinery under TUFS has been raised to 50%.

(iv) A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the

Budget 2001-02 for establishment of Apparel Parks for export of garments . Besides a provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made for the Scheme for improvement of critical infrastructure facilities at major textile production centres.

Maintaining 90 per cent compulsory jute packing for foodgrains and sugar

1186. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to maintain 90 per cent compulsory jute packing for foodgrains and sugar for the jute year 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for not notifying the same within a week's time from the date of decision as being the general practice; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action against the officials responsible for the non-issuance of Notification within Seven days period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. The Government decided to continue with the reservation for foodgrains at 90%, sugar at 90% and urea at 15% under the Jute Packaging materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 till 31st October 2000 or until further orders whichever is earlier.

(b) Does not arise; the orders were notified within the prescribed time.

(c) Does not arise.

Step taken to cut cost and change product mix in Textile Industry

1187. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Economic Times dated 6th August, 2001 under the heading "textile units in a crisis";

(b) if so, whether it has been reported that textile industry should